

F.Y.I.

Special Edition

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DIRECTOR CARUSO TESTIFIES BEFORE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

In a statement to the joint meeting with the House and Senate Standing Committees on Judiciary and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections, Director Patricia Caruso outlined steps the department has taken to address actions that led to the reinstatement of suspected murderer Patrick Selepak's parole.

Changes in policies and procedures have already been instituted and a thorough investigation is under way to see if errors were made. Three MDOC employees have been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into the situation by the department's internal affairs office.

"These are tragic circumstances and there are no words to describe this horrible situation," Director Caruso told the committee. "You must know that corrections staff take pride in the difficult jobs they do every day."

The director also acknowledged the seriousness of staff's responsibility to the safety of the public.

"We all feel terrible about it," said Director Caruso. "But staff did not kill those three people."

"As Corrections professionals we do difficult jobs and make difficult decisions every day," said Director Caruso. "This only serves to heighten the fact that every job is important and lives are resting on them. Each of us must take our work seriously."

Patrick Selepak was paroled on June 14, 2005 after serving almost eight years in prison for Armed Robbery, Larceny in a Building and Escape Prison. On November 8, 2005, parolee Selepak was arrested by his parole officer at the Macomb County Parole Office in Mount Clemens and charged with violating conditions of his parole.

These charges surrounded an October 27, 2005, incident in which Chesterfield Township Police were called to a residence regarding a domestic assault. Parolee Selepak was ordered returned to prison on November 9, 2005, and was moved to a correctional facility in Jackson on November 10, 2005. Patrick Selepak was released from prison and reinstated on parole on January 10, 2006.

Parolee Selepak was arrested in Owosso on Tuesday, February 21, 2006.

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